

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-03) today addressed the 2nd Annual Summit on Preventing Youth Violence in Washington. The Summit was sponsored by the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, which was established at the direction of President Barack Obama to build a national conversation concerning youth and gang violence to increase awareness, drive action, and build local capacity to more effectively address youth violence through comprehensive planning. In addition to Congressman Scott, Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan, and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan also addressed the summit.

Congressman Scott, the only member of Congress to address the summit, emphasized in his remarks that the most effective way to reduce crime is to directly invest in young people before they get into trouble.

"Prevention and early intervention strategies have been proven time and time again to effectively reduce crime and save money," said Congressman Scott. "That is why I have introduced the Youth PROMISE Act, which will target resources to communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges to develop a comprehensive response to youth violence through a coordinated prevention and intervention program. Today, the summit heard from several mayors who have implemented similarly targeted programs that have exceeded expectations, dramatically reduced youth violence and crime, and saved money. Unfortunately, too many local governments continue to face significant budget shortfalls and these types of programs are often the first to be cut. I am pleased that the Obama Administration continues to draw attention to this critical issue and continues to highlight the fact that targeted, evidence based prevention and early intervention programs are the most effective way to address youth violence and crime."

For more information about the Youth PROMISE Act, please visit: www.bobbyscott.house.gov/ypa. For more information about the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, please visit: www.findyouthinfo.gov/collaboration-profiles/national-forum-youth-violence-prevention.

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